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President's Message. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States.

We have continued reason to express our profound gratitude to the great Creator of all things for numberless benefits conferred upon us as a people. Blessed with genial seasons, the husbandman has his granaries filled with abundance; and the necessities of life, not to speak of its luxuries, abound in every direction. While in some other nations steady and industrious labor can hardly find the means of subsistence, the greatest evil which we have to encounter, is a surplus production beyond the home demand, which seeks and with difficulty finds, a partial market in other regions. The health of the country, with partial exceptions has, for the past year, been well preserved; and under their free and wise institutions, the United States are rapidly advancing towards the consummation of the high destiny which an overruling Providence seems to have marked out for them. Exempt from domestic convulsions and at peace with all the world, we are left free to consult as to the best means of securing and advancing the happiness of the people. Such are the circumstances under which you now assemble in your respective chambers and which should lead us to unite in praise and thanksgiving to that great Being who made us, and who preserves us as a nation.

I congratulate you, fellow citizens, on the happy change in the aspect of our foreign affairs since my last annual Message. Causes of complaint at that time existed between the United States and Great Britain, which attended by irritating circumstances, threatened most seriously the public peace. The difficulty of adjusting amicably the questions at issue between the two countries, was, in no small degree augmented by the lapse of time since they had their origin. The opinions entertained by the Executive on several of the leading topics in dispute, were frankly set forth in the opening of your late session. The appointment of a special minister from Great Britain to the United States with power to negotiate upon most of the points of difference, indicated a desire on her part amicably to adjust them, and that minister was met by the Executive in the same spirit which had actuated his mission.

The Treaty consequent thereon, having been duly ratified by the two Governments, a copy, together with the correspondence which accompanied it, is herewith communicated. I trust that whilst you may see in it nothing objectionable, it may be the means of preserving for an indefinite period, the amicable relations happily existing between the two Governments. The question of peace or war between the United States and Great Britain is a question of the deepest interest not only to themselves, but to the civilized world, since it is scarcely possible that a war could exist between them without endangering the peace of Christendom. The immediate effect of the Treaty upon ourselves will be felt in the security afforded to mercantile enterprise which no longer apprehensive of interruption, adventures its speculations in the most distant seas; and freighted with the diversified productions of every land, returns to bless our own. There is nothing in the Treaty which in the slightest degree compromises the honor or dignity of either nation. Next to the settlement of the boundary line, which must always be a matter of difficulty between States as between individuals, the question which seemed to threaten the greatest embarrassment, was that connected with the African slave trade.

By the 10th article of the Treaty of Ghent, it was expressly declared that "whereas the traffic in slaves is irreconcilable with the principles of humanity and justice; and whereas His Majesty the King of Great Britain is desirous of continuing his efforts to promote its entire abolition, it is hereby agreed that both contracting parties shall use their best endeavors to accomplish so desirable an object." In the enforcement of the laws and treaty

stipulations of Great Britain, a practice had threatened to grow up on the part of its cruisers of subjecting to visitation, sailing under the American flag, which while it seriously involved our maritime rights, would subject to venial in a branch of our trade which was daily increasing, and which required the fostering care of the Government. And although Lord Aberdeen, in his correspondence with the American Envoys at London, expressly disclaimed all right to detain an American ship on the high seas, even if found with cargo of slaves on board, and restricted the British pretension to a mere claim to visit and enquire, yet it could not well be discerned by the Executive of the United States how such visit and enquiry could be made without detention on the voyage, and consequent interruption to the trade.

It was regarded as the right of search, presented only in a new form, and expressed in different words; and I therefore felt it to be my duty distinctly to declare in my annual message to Congress, that no such concession could be made, and that the United States had both the will and the ability to enforce their own laws, and to protect their flag from being used for purposes wholly forbidden by those laws, and obnoxious to the moral censure of the world. Taking the Message as his letter of instructions, our then Minister at Paris felt himself required to assume the same ground in a remonstrance which he felt it his duty to present to M. Guizot, and through him to the King of the French, against what has been called the Quintuple treaty; and his conduct in this respect, met with the approval of this Government. In close conformity with these views, the eighth article of this Treaty was framed which provides that each nation shall keep aloof in the African seas a force not less than eighty guns, to act separately and apart, under instructions from their respective Governments, and for the enforcement of their respective laws and obligations.

From this it will be seen that the ground assumed in the Message has been sustained, at the same time that the stipulations of the Treaty of Ghent are to be maintained in good faith by the two countries, and that all pretence is removed for interference with our commerce for any purpose whatever by a foreign government. While, therefore, the United States have been standing up for the freedom of the seas; they have not thought proper to make that pretext for avoiding a fulfillment of their Treaty stipulations, or a ground for giving countenance to a trade prohibited by our laws. A similar arrangement by the other great powers could not fail to sweep from the ocean the slave trade, without the interpolation of any new principle into the maritime code. We may be permitted to hope that the example thus set will be followed by some, if not all of them. We there also afforded suitable protection to the fair trader in those seas, thus fulfilling the same time the dictates of a sound policy; and complying with the claims of justice and humanity.

It would have furnished additional cause for congratulation, if the Treaty could have embodied a list of posts calculated in future to lead to a misunderstanding between the two Governments. The territory of the United States, commonly called the Oregon territory, lying on the Pacific Ocean, north of the 42nd degree of latitude, to a portion of which the British have claim, begins to attract the attention of our fellow citizens, and the tale of population which has reclaimed what was once a barren and unbroken wilderness in more congenial regions, is preparing to flow over the vast frontier which stretches from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, in a race of the great and individual interests of the two lands; and by dictate to every effort should be resorted to by the two Governments, to settle their respective claims. It became manifest, that an early hour of the late negotiations, that any attempt for the time being, to actively to determine these rights, would lead to a protracted discussion, which might embroil in its future other more pressing matters, and the Executive did not regard it as proper to waive all the advantages of an honorable adjustment of their difficulties of great magnitude and importance, based on this, not so immediately pressing, issue in the way. Although the difficulty referred to may not for several years to come involve the peace of the two countries, yet I shall not delay to urge in Great Britain the importance of its early settlement. Nor will other matters of commercial importance be overlooked, and I have good reason to believe that it will comport with the policy of England, as it does with that of the United States, to seize upon this moment, when most of the causes of irritation have passed away, to cement the peace and amity of the two countries by wisely removing all grounds of possible future collision.

With the other powers of Europe our relations continue on the most amicable footing. Treaties now existing with them should be rigidly observed, and every opportunity compatible with the interests of the United States should be seized upon to enlarge the basis of commercial intercourse. Peace with all the world is the

true foundation of our policy, which can only be rendered permanent by the practice of equal and impartial justice to all. Our great desire should be to enter only into that rivalry which looks to the general good, in the cultivation of the sciences, the enlargement of the field for the exercise of the mechanical arts, and the spread of commerce—that great civilizer—to every far and near. Carefully abstaining from interference in all questions exclusively referring themselves to the political interests of Europe, we may be permitted to hope for an equal exemption from the interference of European governments in what relates to the States of the American Continent.

On the 23d of April last, the Commissioners on the part of the United States under the convention with the Texan Republic of the 11th April 1839, made to the proper Department a final report in relation to the proceedings of the commission. From this it appears that the total amount awarded to the claimants by the commissioners and the umpire appointed under that convention, was two millions twenty-six thousand and seventy-nine dollars and sixty-eight cents. The arbiters having considered that his functions were required by the convention to terminate at the same time with those of the commissioners, returned to the board, undecided for want of time, claims which had been allowed by the American commissioners, to the amount of \$328,320 88. Other claims in which the amount sought to be recovered was \$13,682 29, were submitted to the board to be considered. The Minister of the United States at Mexico has been duly authorized to make demand for the payment of the awards, according to the terms of the convention and the provisions of the act of Congress of the 12th of June, 1840. He has been instructed to communicate to that government the expectations of the Government of the United States in relation to those claims which were not disposed of according to the provisions of the convention, and all others of citizens of the United States against the Mexican Government.

He has also been furnished with other instructions to be followed by him in case the Government of Mexico should not find itself in a condition to make prepayment of the amount of the awards, in specie or its equivalent.

I am happy to be able to say that information which is esteemed favorable, both to a just satisfaction of the awards, and a reasonable provision for other claims, has been recently received from Mr. Thompson, the Minister of the United States, who has promptly and efficiently executed the instructions of his government in regard to this important subject.

The citizens of the United States who accompanied the late Texan expedition at Santa Fe and were wrongfully taken and held as prisoners of war in Mexico have all been liberated.

A correspondence has taken place between the Department of State and the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, upon the complaint of Mexico that citizens of the United States were permitted to give aid to the inhabitants of Texas in the war existing between her and that Republic. Copies of this correspondence are herewith communicated to Congress, together with copies of letters on the same subject, addressed to the Department by the Mexican Secretary of State.

Mexico has the right proper to receive the mission of the United States to that Government by according to this a minister of the same rank as that of the Representative of the United States in Mexico. From the circumstances connected with his mission, favorable results are anticipated from it. It is so obviously for the interest of both countries, as neighbors and friends, that all just causes of mutual dissatisfaction should be removed, that it is hoped neither will omit or delay the employment of any practicable and honorable means to accomplish that end.

The affairs pending between this government and several others of the States of the hemisphere, formerly under the domination of Spain have again, within the past year, been materially obstructed by the military revolutions and conflicts in those countries.

The ratification of the treaty between the United States and the Republic of Ecuador, of the 13th of June, 1833, have been exchanged, and that instrument has been promulgated on the part of this Government. Copies are now communicated to Congress with a view to enable that body to make such changes in the laws applicable to our intercourse with that Republic, as may be deemed requisite.

Provision has been made by the government of Chili for the payment of the claims on account of the illegal detention of the War of 1818, in 1820. This government has reason to expect that other claims of our citizens against Chili will be hastened to a final and satisfactory close.

The empire of Brazil has not been altogether exempt from those convulsions

which so constantly afflict the neighboring Republics. Disturbances which recently broke out are however, understood to be quieted. But the continuance, by threatening the stability of the government, or by causing internal and violent changes in the manner of the persons who administer them, tend greatly to retard provision for a just indemnity for losses and injuries suffered by individual subjects or citizens of other States. The government of the United States will feel it to be its duty, however, to consent to no delay not unavoidable in making satisfaction for wrongs and injuries sustained by its own citizens. Many years having, in some cases, elapsed; a decisive and effectual course of proceedings will be demanded of the respective governments against which claims have been preferred.

The vexatious, harassing and expensive war which has long prevailed with the Indian tribes inhabiting the peninsula of Florida, has happily been terminated, whereby our army has been relieved from a service of the most disagreeable character, and the treasury from a large expenditure. Some casual outbreaks may occur, such as are incident to the close proximity of border settlers and the Indians; but these, as in other cases, may be left to the care of local authorities, added when occasion may require by the forces of the United States. A sufficient number of troops will be maintained in Florida so long as the remotest apprehensions of danger shall exist yet their duties will be limited rather to the garrisoning of the necessary posts, than to the maintenance of active hostilities. It is to be hoped that a territory so long retarded in its growth, will now speedily recover from the evils incident to a protracted war, exhibiting, in the increased amount of its rich productions, true evidence of the peace and prosperity towards the numerous tribes residing within our territorial limits, and the exercise of a parental vigilance over their interests, protecting them against fraud and intrusion; and at the same time using every proper expedient to introduce amongst them the arts of civilization, which we may hope not only to wean them from their love of war, but to inspire them with a love for peace and its avocations. With several of the tribes great progress in civilizing them, has already been made. The schoolmaster and the missionary are found side by side, and the remains of what were once numerous and powerful nations, may yet be preserved to be the builders up of a new name for themselves and their posterity.

The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1842, (exclusive of the amount deposited with the States, Trust Funds and Indemnities) was \$23,148 63. The receipts into the Treasury during the three first quarters of the present year, from all sources, amounted to \$26,625,593 78; of which more than fourteen millions were received from customs, and about one million from the public lands. The receipts for the fourth quarter are estimated at nearly eight millions, of which four millions are expected from the customs, and three millions and a half from loans and Treasury notes. The expenditures of the first three quarters of the present year exceed twenty-six millions; and those estimated for the fourth quarter amount to about eight millions; and it is anticipated there will be a deficiency to half a million on the 1st of January next—that that the amount of outstanding warrants (estimated at \$800,000) will leave an actual balance of about \$2,100 00 in the Treasury. Among the expenditures of the year, are more than eight millions for the public debt, and \$600,000 on account of the distribution to the States of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands.

The present Tariff of duties was somewhat hastily and hurriedly passed near the close of the late session of Congress. That it should have defects, can, therefore, be surprising to no one. To remedy such defects as may be found to exist in many of its numerous provisions, will not fail to claim your serious attention. If my well merited inquiry, whether the extension of all duties in cash does not call for the introduction of a system which has proved highly beneficial in countries where it has been adopted. I refer to the Warehousing System. The first and most prominent effect which it would produce, would be to protect the market alike against redundant or deficient supplies of foreign fabrics—both of which, in the long run, are injurious as well to the manufacturer as the importer. The quantity of goods in store being at all times readily known, it would enable the importer, with an approach to accuracy, to ascertain the actual wants of the market, and to regulate himself accordingly. It, however, he should fall into error, by importing an excess above the public wants, he could readily correct his evils by availing himself of the benefits and advantages of the system thus established. In the storehouse the goods imported would wait the demands of the market, and their issues would be governed by the fixed principles of demand and supply. Thus an approximation would be made to a steadiness and uniformity of price, which, if attainable, would conduce to the decided advantage of mercantile and mechanical operations.

The apprehension may be well entertained that, without something to ameliorate the rigor of cash payments, the entire import trade may fall into the hands of a few wealthy capitalists in this country and in Europe. The small importer, who requires all the money he can raise for investments abroad, and who can but ill afford to pay the lowest duty, would have to submit in advance a portion of his funds in order to pay the duties, and would lose the interest upon the amount thus paid for all the time the goods might remain unsold, which might absorb his profits. The rich capitalists abroad, as well as at home, would thus possess, after a short time, an almost exclusive monopoly of the import trade, and laws designed for the benefit of all, would thus operate for the benefit of the few—a result wholly unbecoming with the spirit of our institutions, and anti-republican in all its tendencies. The Warehousing system would enable the importer to wait in the market, and to select his own time for offering his goods for sale. A profitable portion of the carrying trade in articles entered for the benefit of drawback, without the adoption of some expedient to relieve the cash system. The Warehousing system would afford that relief, since the carrier would have a safe recourse to the public storehouses, and might, without advancing the duty, reship within some reasonable period to foreign ports. A further effect of the measure would be, to supersede the system of drawbacks, thereby effectually protecting the government against fraud, as the importer their withdrawal, revising the existing tariff of duties, should you deem it proper to do so at the present session, I can only repeat the suggestions and recommendations which, upon several occasions, I have heretofore felt it my duty to offer to Congress. The great, primary, and controlling interest of the American people is union—union not only in the mere forms of government, forms which may be broken—but union founded in an attachment of States and individuals for each. The union in sentiment and feeling can only be preserved by the adoption of that course of policy which, neither giving exclusive benefits to some, nor imposing unnecessary burdens upon others, shall consult the interests of all, by pursuing a course of moderation, and thereby seeking to harmonize public opinion, and causing the people every where to feel and to know that the government is careful of the interests of all alike. Nor is there any subject in regard to which moderation, connected with a wise discrimination, is more necessary than in the imposition of duties on imports. Whether reference be had to revenue, the primary object in the imposition of taxes, or to the incidents which necessarily flow from their imposition, this is entirely true. Extravagant duties defeat their end and object, not only by exciting in the public mind a hostility to the manufacturing interests, but by inducing a system of smuggling on an extensive scale, and the practice of every manner of fraud upon the revenue, which the utmost vigilance of the government cannot effectually suppress.

An opposite course of policy would be attended by results essentially different, of which every interest of society, and none more than those of the manufacturer, would reap important advantages. Among the most striking of its benefits would be that derived from the general acquiescence of the country in its support, and the consequent permanency and stability which would be given to all the operations of industry. It cannot be too often repeated, that no system of legislation can be wise which is fluctuating and uncertain. No interest can thrive under it. The prudent capitalist will never adventure his capital in manufacturing establishments, or in any other leading pursuit of life, if there exists a state of uncertainty as to whether the government will repeal to-morrow what it has enacted to-day. Fitful profits, however high, if threatened with a ruinous reduction by a vacillating policy on the part of government, will scarcely tempt him to trust the money which he has acquired by a life of labor, upon the uncertain adventure. I, therefore, in the spirit of conciliation, and influenced by no other desire than to rescue the great interests of the country from the vortex of political contention, and in the discharge of the high and solemn duties of the place which I now occupy, recommend moderate duties imposed with a wise discrimination as to their several objects, as being not only most likely to be durable, but most advantageous to every interest of society.

The report of the Secretary of the War Department exhibits a very full and satisfactory account of the various important interests committed to the charge of that officer. It is particularly gratifying to find that the expenditure for the military service has greatly reduced in amount—that a strict system of economy has been introduced into the service, and the abuses of past years greatly reformed. The fortifications on our maritime frontier have been prosecuted with much vigor and at many points

our defenses are in a very considerable state of forwardness. The suggestions in reference to the establishment of means of communication with our territories on the Pacific, and to the surveys so essential to a knowledge of the resources of the intermediate country, are entitled to the most favorable consideration. While I would propose nothing inconsistent with friendly negotiations to settle the extent of our claims in that region, yet a prudent forecast points out the necessity of such measures as may enable us to maintain our rights. The arrangements made for preserving our neutral relations on the boundary between us and Texas, and keeping in check the Indians in that quarter, will be maintained so long as circumstances may require.

For several years angry contentions have grown out of the disposition directed by law to be made of the mineral lands held by the government in the several States. The government is constituted the landlord, and the citizens of the States wherein lie the lands, are its tenants. The relation is an unwise one, and it would be much more conducive to the public interest that a sale of the lands should be made than that they should remain in their present condition. The supply of the ore would be more abundantly and certainly furnished when to be drawn from the enterprise and the industry of the proprietor, than under the present system.

The recommendation of the Secretary in regard to the improvement of the Tennessee waterway, and I doubt not will receive your serious attention. The great importance of these subjects to the prosperity of the extensive region referred to, and the security of the whole country in time of war, cannot escape observation. The losses of life and property which annually occur in the navigation of the Mississippi alone, because of the dangerous obstructions in the river, make a loud demand upon Congress for the adoption of efficient measures for their removal.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy will bring you acquainted with that important branch of the public defenses. Considering the already vast and daily increasing commerce of the country, apart from the exposure to hostile incursions of an extended seaboard, all that relates to the Navy is calculated to excite particular attention. Whatever tends to add to its efficiency, without entailing unnecessary charges upon the Treasury, is well worthy your serious attention. It will be seen that while an appropriation exceeding by less than a million the appropriations of the present year, is asked by the Secretary, yet that in this sum is proposed to be included \$100,000 for the purchase of clothing, which, when once expended, will be annually reimbursed by the sale of clothes, and will thus constitute a perpetual fund, without any new appropriation to the same object. To this may be added \$50,000 asked to cover the arrearages of past years, and \$250,000 in order to maintain a competent squadron on the coast of Africa; all of which, when deducted, will reduce the expenditures nearly within the limits of those of the current year. While, however, the expenditures will thus remain very nearly the same as of the antecedent year, it is proposed to add greatly to the operations of the Marine, and in lieu of only twenty-five ships in commission, and but very little in the way of building, to keep, with the same expenditure, forty-one vessels afloat, and to build twelve ships of a small class.

A strict system of accountability is established, and great pains are taken to insure industry, fidelity and economy, in every department of duty. Experiments have been instituted to test the quality of various materials, particularly copper, iron and coal, so as to prevent fraud and imposition.

It will appear by the report of the Postmaster General that the great point which, for several years, has been so much desired, has, during the current year, been fully accomplished. The expenditures of the Department, for the current year, have been brought within its income without lessening its general usefulness. There has been an increase of revenue equal to 166,000 for the year over that of 1841, without, as it is believed, any addition having been made to the number of letters and newspapers transmitted through the mails. The Post Office laws have been honestly administered, and fidelity has been observed in accounting for, and paying over by the subordinates of the Department, the moneys which have been received. For the details of the service, I refer you to the report.

I flatter myself that the exhibition thus made of the condition of the public administration will serve to convince you that every proper attention has been paid to the interests of the country by those who have been called to the heads of the different Departments. The reduction in the annual expenditures of the Government already accomplished, furnishes a sure evidence that economy in the application of the public moneys is regarded as a paramount duty.